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the presiding officer feels is the true interpretation of the Constitution and my obligation to abide by a ruling of the Attorney General whether I agree with every word of it or not. Senator Lewis, do you care to close?

SENATOR LEWIS: I do wish to close now. It is the first time since I have been here that I have had the opportunity to debate with the Presiding Officer and it was indeed a great privilege. The point is of course that this issue has been hashed back and forth. The decision and the ruling of the Chair this time, and this year it is unique and unusual in the respect that we have operated before. The Attorney General gives a lot of opinions and I appreciate that, he is a fine lawyer, and his rulings have no subsequent meaning in court other than the fact that that is his opinion. He might wish to pursue that in defense of the same. But his rule is not law. That is the trend that is happening in this Legislative body more and more this time and I don't believe that that is the correct approach. I believe that the interpretation is wrong, and I believed that we passed the bill and I believe that we ought to put the money with it. I respectfully ask the members of this body to overrule the decision of the Chair.

PRESIDENT: Senator Duis, for what purpose do you rise?

SENATOR DUIS: Well Mr. President, I had my light on for quite awhile and I didn't know if I was allowed too.....

PRESIDENT: Senator Lewis made his statement and the Chair gave his view and Senator Lewis has closed on the matter.

SENATOR DUIS: Oh I thought that I had my light on before his closing, and you may have but, do you want to speak on this matter?

PRESIDENT: Do you want to speak on this matter?

SENATOR DUIS: You made reference sir to a opinion from the Department of Justice....

PRESIDENT: Yes, and Senator Lewis responded.

SENATOR DUIS: Which I had a copy and I wasn't reading this like the discussion was going and the opinion that I had was written to Senator Murphy. It didn't look like, of course maybe my reading doesn't read the same, but it sounded like in this opinion that they weren't going to make a decision as to whether or not this was under the constitution or not but was the prerogative of the Legislature.

PRESIDENT: No, they said that the determination of whether or not this is a new program or merely expanding an existing program is one made by the Legislature.

SENATOR DUIS: Thank you.

PRESIDENT: Senator Chambers.